

"The Word Of Victory"

"It Is Finished!"

April 12, 1974

Text: John 19:30, "When Jesus therefore, had received the vinegar, he said, 'It is finished;' and he bowed his head, and gave up the spirit."

"When Jesus therefore, had received the vinegar, he said, 'It is finished;' and he bowed his head and gave up the spirit." What was finished? What did he really mean? There are several things that we need to consider about this sixth word in order to understand what was being said by Jesus. If we look at the life of any individual, no matter who it may be, we know that life is made up of many things. But two ingredients in any life are work and suffering. Each person has a certain work they perform through life, and the very performance of that work entails a certain amount of suffering to achieve it. Jesus was no different in this respect.

We know of him as a worker for He spoke of this often. He said, "The works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me." And, "I must work the works of Him who sent me," and again, "The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me." Now from these quotations of Jesus it is evident that He had a work and was about it.

So if He was speaking from the standpoint of the work that He tried to do in His life, then this sixth word would simply imply that His work was ended. When he said it is finished, he was saying that every thing for which he had labored had been accomplished. ~~xxxxxx~~ These words could also have implied that the terrible ordeal he had undergone in these last hours was also at an end. It could have been a triumphant shout that he was able to leave behind him, his executioners, his tormentors, and the humiliation he had endured. He could in essence have been saying, "All that you have entrusted to me has been fulfilled. I have completed the work you sent me to do." But in the 17th chapter of this same Gospel of

John, Jesus said, "I have glorified thee on earth; I have finished the
k which thou gavest me to do." So in this light then, it is unlikely
that Jesus was merely reiterating what he had said on a previous occasion.

It is more likely that the cry of "It is Finished," was a cry of
triumph and of victory. That it signified the end of the suffering part
of His life. ~~Ixxsaidxpreviouslyxthatxwasxeachxwasxworkxandxsufferingxpastx~~
~~xxourxxkivesx~~ The suffering part being in reality the role in life that
Jesus had to live. Dr. Herbert Simpson preaching in Westminster Church
in London on this word said, "It has been called with perfect justice,
the most momentous word the world has ever heard." And if we can analyse
the word in this way we can indeed see that it was not a statement of the
mere completion of a task, but instead the word of victory. A shout of
triumph for what had taken place. An announcement to the world that "IT"
was finished.

"IT," being in this instance the Divine plan of Almighty God to re-
deem mankind. This plan that was started in the garden of eden after man
had fallen from God in trying to be like God and do his own thing. From
that moment on, God had set into motion a plan to save His people from
their sins. Jesus once said, "My meat is to do the will of Him that
sent me, and to finish his work." This was what he was now about.

This plan was operable in the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
It was still in motion in the ~~prophexies~~ judges and the kings. In the
major and the minor prophets. All down through the history of Israel
God's covenant was established and reestablished for the redemption of
His people.

As Jesus hung suspended between heaven and earth, he could very
readily view this whole scene passing before his tortured eyes, much
~~like xdrowningxpersonxseesxkixx~~ we are told a drowning person sees
their life pass in review. And as his gaze stretched back over several
thousand years, he could view all of this as some giant jig saw puzzle

Order of Worship

(Please enter and leave the service only during the ushering intervals or while the congregation is singing the hymns)

THE WORDS FROM THE CROSS

ORGAN PRELUDE Mr. Daryl C. Kemerer

12:00—THE CALL TO WORSHIP

CHORAL INTROIT The Rev. Stuart H. Perrin

CALL TO WORSHIP Pastor, Saint Andrews United Presbyterian Church

INVOCATION The Rev. Stuart H. Perrin

*HYMN—"Tis Midnight; and on Olive's Brow"
1. 'Tis midnight; and on Olive's brow the star is dimmed that lately shone:
'Tis midnight; in the garden now, the suffering Saviour prays alone.
2. 'Tis midnight; and from mountain tops the Saviour writhes lone with fears;
But then he weeps; He loves her; and Mary grieves tears.
3. 'Tis midnight; and from heavenly plains is borne the song that angels know;
Unheard by mortals are the strains that sweetly soothe the Saviour's woe. Amen.

12:05—THE WORD OF INTERCESSION

"Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 23:32-38

SOLO "He Shall Feed His Flock" Handel

Miss Molly Bussler

THE MEDITATION The Rev. C. Kenneth Hall

Pastor, The Hill United Presbyterian Church

PRAYER

*HYMN—"Alas! and Did My Saviour Bleed"

1. Alas! and did my Saviour bleed, and did my Sovereign die?
Would I never that poor head of mine didst offer such a sight!
2. Yet, for all it cost me, I have done. He suffered under that tree!
Amazing pity! grace unknown! And love beyond degree!
3. Well might the sun in darkness hide, and shut his glories in,
When God, the Father, didst thy mortal man to sacrifice.
4. Then, when I hide my blushing face where His dear cross appears;
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness, and melt mine eyes to tears!
5. But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away; 'tis all that I can do. Amen.

12:30—THE WORD OF SALVATION

"Today shall thou be with me in Paradise."

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 23:39-43

DUET "Drop, Drop, Slow Tears" Graham

Mrs. Penelope Kemerer and Mrs. Jean McLaren

THE MEDITATION The Rev. Warren A. Bugbee

Pastor, First United Methodist Church

PRAYER

*HYMN—"O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go"

1. O love that wilt not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe, That in Thy keeping safe may richer, fuller be.
2. O love that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray, That in Thy sunshine's blaze its day may brighter, fairer be.
3. O Cross whereon Thine head, I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I sink in dust life's glory to find, From the ground there blossoms red life that shall endless be. Amen.

12:55—THE WORD OF REMEMBRANCE

"Woman, behold thy son! Behold thy mother!"

John 19:25-27

SCRIPTURE READING John 19:25-27

SOLO "Forgive Us" DuFault

Miss Ruth Ann Quinlan

THE MEDITATION The Rev. Francis A. Glenn

Pastor, St. Paul's Catholic Church

PRAYER

*HYMN—"Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand—
The shadow of the mighty rock within a weary land;
I find my quiet in the cross, and I find my safety there,
From the burning of the noonday heat, and the burden of the day.
2. Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see
The wonder of thy love, O Christ, and for me;
And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess—
The wonders of redeeming love and my unworthiness.
3. I take, O cross, thy shame and thy abiding pain;
With thine own curse, O Christ, upon thy face;
Content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss;
My sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross. Amen.

1:20—THE WORD OF LONELINESS

"My God, My God! Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?"

Mark 15:33-34

SCRIPTURE READING Mark 15:33-34

SOLO "He Touched Me" Gaither

Mr. Paul Reed

THE MEDITATION The Rev. Reinhold K. Weber

Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church

PRAYER

*HYMN—"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

1. In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.
2. When the woes of life o'er-take me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy.
Never shall the cross forsake me; lo! it gives me peace and joy.
3. With the joys of bliss is mingled pain, and love unites me to the day.
4. Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure, joy that through all time abide. Amen.

1:45—THE WORD OF SUFFERING

"I thirst."

John 19:28-29

SCRIPTURE READING John 19:28-29

SOLO "He Never Said A Mumbalin' Word" Traditional

Mrs. Richard May

THE MEDITATION The Rev. Calvin W. Ross

Pastor, Oak Hills Christian Church

PRAYER

*HYMN—"Amazing Grace—How Sweet the Sound"

1. Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now can see.
2. How precious did that sound my heart to fane, and graced my fears relieved;
How precious did that sound my soul to find my Savior believed.
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures. Amen.

In this light then, it unlikely Js reiterating what said previous occasion. More likely cry It finished, cry victory, triumph that it signified end suffering part his life offering part being reality role in life Js had live

Dr. Herbert Simpson, preaching Westminister church London said this word, "It has been called with perfect justice, the most momentous word the world has ever heard."

And if we analyse word this way, we indeed see was not statement mere completion of task, but instead word of victory.

A shout of triumph for what taken place Announcement to world that "IT" finished

"IT" being this instance, Divine plan Almighty God redeem mankind.

This plan was started garden Eden after man fallen from God trying be like God & do own thing.

From that moment on, God set in motion plan save His peop from sins

Js once said, "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work."

This was what he was about now.

God's plan was operable in lives patriarchs, Abe, Isaac, Jacob,

In motion in Moses, Joseph, Judges, the kings, In action in the major, minor prophets.

All down history Israel God's covenant est. re-est for redemption of his peop.

As Js hung suspend heaven earth, he very readily view whole scene passing before tortured eyes, much like drowning man view life passing by.

and as gaze stretched back several M yrs, he view all this as some big giant jig saw puzz, forming, shaping, day by day, yr by yr, cent by ce

All this piece by precious piece, put place by hand Al. God, His Father

All of it for child. whom he loved, sought all thes yrs.

All this been finished, Js aware purpose of God, been worked out his life.

(Js had any misgivings, doubts about role he to play, was prob at this point of execution all came into full focus.

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"The Word Of Victory"

"It Is Finished"

April 12, 1974

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"When Jesus therefore, had received the vinegar, He said, 'It is finished;' and He bowed His head, and gave up the spirit."

Read the text above,
What was finished?
What did He mean?

There are several things to consider about 6th word in order understand what being said by Js
If look at life of any indiv, no matter who, we know life made up many things

2 ingred any life, work, suffering each person xxxx has certain work thru life
7 THE very perform this work entails certain amt suffer achieve it

Js no diff this respect
we know he workerm spoke this often, he said,
"The works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works xxxx that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me," and, "I must work the works of Him who sent me," and also, "The works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me."

Now from these quotes of Js, evident He had work & was about it.

So if he speak from standpoint of work he tried do in life, then 6th word simply imply his work ended.

When he say It is Finished, he saying everything for which he labored had been accomplished

These words could also implied terrible ordeal he undergone last few hours, also at end.

Could been triumphant shout he able leave behind executioners, tormentors, & humiliation he endured Could well be saying, "All you entrusted me been fulfilled. I completed work you sent me do."

But in 17th chap same Gospel John Js says, "I have glorified thee on earth; I have finished the work thou gavest me to do."

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link

Ethan and Alica in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
Sarver, Pa. 16055
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Married: December 15, 1951

Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill

Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Diety of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.